

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
WILLIAM DAVID PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Officer William David Peoples, of the Cambridge, Ohio Police Department has been recognized as its Officer of the Month for May 2001; and

Whereas, Officer Peoples has continually demonstrated a superlative degree of professionalism, care and commitment in his role as a police officer, and

Whereas, he was awarded the Exceptional Service Medal in 1995 for his heroic actions and effective problem solving as he helped deliver water to the 12,000 residents of Cambridge when a main line broke; and,

Whereas, he was again recognized with the Life Saving Medal with Silver Torch, in 1997 for his patience and bravery in the prevention of a suicide attempt;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the dedication and the exemplary service of Officer William D. Peoples, a man whom I am proud to call a constituent and one who serves as an example to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH OF SANTA
ROSA, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague from California, Ms. LYNN WOOLSEY, I wish today to recognize Community Baptist Church of Santa Rosa as this congregation celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding.

A few African American families formed the hub of the church 50 years ago, which has since grown into a fully integrated congregation of 650 people, with three choirs, two youth groups, an on-site day care center, and a charter high school.

The congregation's first pastor was The Reverend Washington E. Boyce, who was serving as the assistant pastor at the First Missionary Baptist Church in the neighboring County of Marin when he traveled north to Sonoma County to enlist the support of local residents in building a spiritual community.

Community Baptist became an official congregation in 1951, and the first deacon, Curtis Wyatt, Jr., was ordained in 1952.

The first church services were held in members' homes and in community buildings in Santa Rosa. The first church building officially opened in 1956.

The Reverend James E. Coffee became the minister at Community Baptist Church in 1965 and has served the congregation for the past 36 years.

Over the course of the past 50 years, the church has played a vital spiritual and cultural role in Sonoma County and has enriched the lives of thousands of people.

The church is an active participant in the Hate-Free cities movement; has provided a home for self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; has initiated and maintains a four day annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration; has established and supports a community garden; has established and maintains a ministry of outreach to Lytton Ministries, a transition program for people trying to free themselves from addictions; and has established and supports the Second Sunday Morning Breakfasts, a forum for discussing, strategizing, and taking action on issues of civic, social and political importance.

The church also has an active youth program. It founded and runs the Village Project, which helps forge positive adult child relationships and the Rites of Passage program to help adolescents transition into adulthood. The church has also established a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship program and actively supports the 100 Black Men Mentoring program.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of its vibrant history and traditions and its many contributions to Sonoma County, it is appropriate that we acknowledge today this pioneering congregation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT WORLD CONFERENCE
AGAINST RACISM PRESENTS
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO AD-
DRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my severe disappointment regarding the lack of engagement by the United States in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, August 31–September 7, 2001, in Durban South Africa.

The United States has an extraordinary perspective on racism. It has made great strides towards addressing some of its problems. When the original Constitution was enacted, it declared African-Americans to be three-fifths of a human being. During Reconstruction, this very body initially refused to seat the first African-American Members of Congress. Today, there are thirty-nine African-American Members of Congress and numerous Cabinet officials. Though we have a long way to go with regards to race relations, we have come a long way.

This Nation presided over a slave trade that will go down in world history as one of the most grotesque examples of man's inhumanity to man. Once slavery was abolished, due in large part to pressure from other nations, parts of the United States then enacted codes designed to deny African-Americans their full citizenship rights. As abhorrent as this pattern was, Americans of good conscience rose to the challenge and implemented laws to ensure equal treatment under the law. We have a long way to go, but we have come a long way.

This Administration owed it to all Americans to deliver the message of possibility to the world. Yet, unfortunately, this administration

approached this conference with little interest and a miniscule commitment to engagement. Representatives of this Administration stymied the preparation that began during the previous Administration. Therefore, its withdrawal from the conference was not a surprise.

And while the actions in Durban were not surprising, hope that the refusal to discuss differences does not become the trademark of this Administration and mar its ability to engage in constructive dialogue about civil and human rights in this country. The withdrawal from Durban, combined with the lack of a domestic civil rights policy, an unwillingness to proceed with much-needed election reform and the glaring refusal to end racial profiling, leads me to doubt this Administration's ability to candidly and fairly address issues of race and diversity within this country.

Mr. Speaker, racism in real. Discrimination is real. The argument for reparations should be openly discussed and seriously debated in this country. America must face its current racial reality and reconcile with its inglorious racial past. I suggest that Members of this House begin our national healing by passing a resolution which offers an acknowledgement of the sufferings caused by slavery and an official apology for governmental actions which perpetrated their condition. If we, as Representatives of the United States Government, cannot apologize for this sorry and unfortunate history, our future will be forever marred and our enemies will be able to say that the United States left Durban because it did not want to address its own history.

I call upon the Congress and the President to show the leadership necessary to begin healing within our country.

A COMMANDING ROLE FOR JAMES
N. GOLDSMITH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate an ally of veterans everywhere and my close friend, James N. Goldsmith, upon his election as Commander-in-Chief for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is with particular pride that I note that Commander Goldsmith is a resident of Lapeer, Michigan.

Jim Goldsmith's election to head the VFW is a tribute to his many years of dutiful attention to the needs of veterans and the faith that his fellow veterans have placed in him for continued service and fidelity to their health and welfare. A decorated U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, Jim has a deep and personal understanding of the obligation all citizens owe to the men and women who served this country during times of conflict on foreign soil and to those on active duty today.

Upon returning from Vietnam in 1967, Jim joined VFW Post 5666 in Flushing, Michigan, and he's been fighting on behalf of veterans ever since. A Life Member of VFW Post 4139 in Lapeer, Jim has held many posts in the local, state and national organization and he has received numerous awards. In 1978, Jim was selected as Michigan's "Young Veteran of the Year," and, in 1980, he became the first Vietnam veteran to win election as Department Junior Vice Commander.